

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

S E C R E T STATE 155414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CONSULTATIVE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) LONDON 10780, (B) LUSAKA 1854, (C) LUSAKA 1875,
(D) LUSAKA 1878, (E) LUSAKA 1860

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY LONDON'S AND AMBASSADOR
LOW'S CONCERN THAT THE BRITISH SCHEDULE FOR CONSULTATIONS
DOES NOT ALLOW ENOUGH TIME FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
NEEDED BEFORE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE IS PRESENTED TO SMITH
AND NATIONALISTS. LOW'S SUGGESTIONS PARA 5 REFTEL B
PROVIDE A BETTER BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS AND COULD AVOID
DANGER OF ALIENATING THE NATIONALISTS AT THIS CRUCIAL
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TIME.

2. FOR LONDON: IN VIEW OF FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS,
EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE APPROACH TO FCO AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE
LEVEL TO VOICE OUR CONCERN ABOUT DANGER OF MOVING TOO
FAST, AND TO PRESENT ARGUMENTATION LOW MADE IN REFTEL
B. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO SOUND OUT FCO ON OWEN'S CURRENT

THINKING REGARDING SCHEDULE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING HIS IDEAS ABOUT PRESENTING THE FINAL PACKAGE IN AFRICA.

3. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THAT OWEN WANTS GRAHAM TO RETURN TO LONDON JULY 9 IN TIME FOR GRAHAM TO GIVE HIM FULL REPORT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND OWEN IS CONSIDERING TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO CONFER WITH SECRETARY BEFORE PRESENTING PROPOSED PACKAGE TO CABINET MEETING ON 13TH. THUS OUR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS IN LUSAKA AND DAR OR MAPUTO AFTER THE SALISBURY TALKS MAY FALL ON DEAF EARS. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF ALLOWING MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS IN AFRICA ARE COGENT ENOUGH THAT WE SHOULD MAKE THE APPROACH TO THE BRITISH.

4. FOR LUSAKA: WITHOUT WAITING FOR FCO RESPONSE TO APPROACH BY EMBASSY LONDON, YOU SHOULD, AS YOU SUGGEST IN REFTEL C, URGE ON GRAHAM MODIFICATIONS TO CONSULTATIVE GROUP SCHEDULE. WITH RESPECT TO THE THREE QUESTIONS YOU RAISED REGARDING CONSULTATIVE GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES (REFTEL D), DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT AND CONCURS WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON EACH OF THE THREE QUESTIONS.

5. REGARDING YOUR ONWARD TRAVEL (REFTEL E), YOU SHOULD
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PLAN TO RETURN TO LONDON WITH GRAHAM. WHETHER OR NOT GRAHAM COMES TO WASHINGTON, YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO COME HERE FOR CONSULTATIONS. TRAVEL ORDERS WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. VANCE

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